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5 December 1958

Acting Assistant Director, Research and Reports

THROUGH: Acting Chief, Economic Research Area

Chief, Services Division

Construction Materials Contribution to NIS 63F

REFERENCE: Memorandum to Chief, Economic Research from Chief, Services Division, dated 23 April 1958, subject, "Proposed ORR Preparation of the Construction Materials Section of NIS Section 63 on Sino-Soviet Bloc Countries," copy attached.

1. We have recently reviewed a contribution on this subject prepared for the China 63F. Our analysis of this contribution as well as the analysis of the several interested Defense departments indicates that the chapter is extremely poorly prepared. There is almost no analysis in the presentation. The data used for the presentation are old, principally from sources gathered from the Industrial Register. The Industrial Register, holding on this particular subject, is itself far too limited to write a useful contribution.

2. More particularly, there is little or nothing in the contribution on developments in China or the relevance of the material presented to the Chinese economy. Our best appraisal of the result is that it would be far easier for us, even at this stage, to prepare a chapter ourselves than to attempt the really necessary corrections required for this contribution.

3. I deign to bring this subject up again not so much in an effort to create a fuss which would lead to our immediate drafting of the subject contribution as to see if we can set a fire under ORI which will result in the eventual (and hopefully quick) transfer of this assignment to RR/S/CST.

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Enclosure: Reference memorandum

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